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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1317

April 28, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for a Behavioral Health Outpatient Clinic in Stephenson County, IL in fiscal year 2022.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Rosecrance, Inc., located at 15 N. Galena Ave., Freeport, IL 61032.

The funding would be used to fill a gap in services by providing access to critical treatment to patients, regardless of insurance coverage. In 2019, the FHN Community Health Needs Assessment identified behavioral healthcare as a top priority issue facing the community. This was demonstrated through an increasingly higher level of suicide and more emergency room visits for behavioral health needs. Unfortunately, the suicide rate was significantly higher in Stephenson County than the state, reflecting the need for more behavioral health services. Additionally, HRSA has identified Stephenson County in need of at least 3.41 FTE mental health providers to achieve the target population to practitioner ratio, without even considering the shortage of SUD treatment providers in the County.

The proposed Rosecrance outpatient clinic will provide high-quality, evidence-based care in a setting that is therapeutic and conducive for healing for mental health and substance abuse patients. The proposed clinic would be staffed with four clinicians – two mental health clinicians and two substance abuse clinicians, and would offer at least 4 hours of telepsychiatry per week. The clinic would offer both individual and group services targeted to meet patient needs.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Respectfully,

Cheri Bustos

Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress
April 28, 2021